



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

September 14, 2001

Contact: Patrick Lacefield 240-777-7939 or Jean Arthur 240-777-7934

***Remarks by Council President Blair Ewing
at Montgomery County National Day of Mourning Event
Rockville, September 14, 2001***

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We come together here today to remember the thousands who met their untimely end this week, victims of cowardly assassins who cared as little for their own lives as for those lives they snuffed out. Shakespeare said, "Tis a vile thing to die...when men are unprepared and look not for it." And what a vile thing it was and what a sad, sad week we have all endured.

We must reach out to those responsible for this horrendous act and hold them accountable. Acts must have consequences.

But today...we must remember. I remember Bryan Jack. During my years of work at the Pentagon, we worked together side-by-side. He was my friend. He was a patriot. When I opened the *Washington Post* and saw his photo listed among those of other victims, I was very shocked. I'm sure we all have experienced something similar this week, whether or not a friend or acquaintance was among the casualties. We are, all of us, victims – like it or not.

"The world breaks everyone," Ernest Hemingway wrote, "and afterward many are strong at the broken places."

This is our task – to be strong at the "broken places" – to be the very best parents and grandparents, sons and daughters, neighbors and co-workers we can be. We must value every moment of life as it was our last. And we must love our country – as Adlai Stevenson said – not as a short and frenzied outburst of emotion but as the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime.

To those who have gone on before, we say we will meet you in a better world. For those of us left behind, may we make the most of the gifts God gave us – pursuing justice, conquering hate, and loving liberty. # # #